

NOTICE

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
For 1878.
(With which has been incorporated "THE
CHINA DIRECTORY.")

The PUBLISHER requests that those Firms who have not yet returned the Printed Forms which have been sent to them to fill up, will be kind enough to do so WITHOUT DELAY. Any Persons who have recently arrived, or to whom Printed Forms have not been forwarded, are desired to send their Names and Addresses, as early as possible for insertion.

Daily Press Office, November 12th, 1877.

NOTICE

IT is hereby notified that I have placed Mr. R. CHATTERTON WILCOX IN Charge of the TRADING AND PUBLISHING Business of THE DAILY PRESS Office from this date, and it is further notified that Mr. Wilcox has entered into an Agreement with me as LESSEE of that BUSINESS, to commence on the 1st January, 1878.

YORICK JONES MURROW
by his Attorneys

Wm. PUSTAU & CO.
Hongkong, 7th November, 1877.

NOTICE

A. S. WATSON & CO.
FAMILY AND DISPENSING
CHEMISTS,
By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and his Royal Highness the Duke of EDINBURGH,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS
PERFUMERS,
PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,
DRUGGISTS' SUPPLY,
And
AERATED WATER MAKERS,

SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REPTITED,
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. Watson and Co., or HONGKONG DISPENSARY. [65]

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.—
Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to "The Editor," and those on business to "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

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All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 20TH, 1877.

The shipping interest in this Colony is so large and important that, though unrepresented in any way, its claims ought not for a moment to be lost sight of. All the facilities that can in reason be given to shipmasters should be accorded, and we are sure that such is the opinion of the community in general. The proposal to establish a time ball in Victoria Harbour will find few opponents. The report on the subject by the Hon. J. M. Price, Surveyor-General, is practical and to the point. He points out the fact that "the lives of crews and the safety of cargoes depend, in small degree, upon the accuracy of the chronometers carried, and that during the voyage from England to China these delicate instruments are subjected to great changes of temperature and to hygrometric differences of atmosphere that do not fail to accumulate error on the way." It is of vital importance that shipmasters should be able to regulate their chronometers by Greenwich time, or they may through a most trifling error in it get out of their reckoning and strike upon an unsuspected rock. The want of a time ball has long been felt by the Surveyor-General and Admiral Ryder assure us, and the former writes that a memorial on the subject was in contemplation at the beginning of the year, but the idea was abandoned owing to the sudden departure home of the Manager of the P. and O. Company. The institution of a time ball would, of course, involve the erection of a small Observatory and the engagement of a competent person to take charge of it. Mr. Price calculates that an establishment of the size needed for the purpose can be founded at a prime cost of £3,000 and a future annual expenditure of £200. This is not a very serious amount, and as a levy of half a cent per ton upon the tonnage of European and American ships frequenting the port would, it is shown, produce a revenue of some sixteen hundred pounds sterling, the original cost would soon be recovered, and money obtained for the purchase of meteorological and other instruments, by means of which cyclonic phenomena could be noted and useful information gathered. Shipowners and masters are, as a body, most favourable to the scheme, and would gladly pay the small tax it would be necessary to levy, and as Mr. Price remarks, "it would be surprising if any other feeling did exist."

Admiral Ryder, in a letter to His Excellency the Governor, warmly supports the idea of establishing a time ball, and points out the great importance to those who "turn to the sea in ships" of securing the correct Greenwich time. "At certain periods of the year," he says, "the coasts of China and Japan are enveloped in fog, but peeps of the sun with a fair horizon are generally to be obtained at some time during the day. A serious doubt as to the accuracy of the Greenwich time, say from ten to fifteen miles, would often prove most embarrassing when the master is relying almost entirely upon 'Summers' Method' for safety, where-as if the Greenwich time can be relied on to have a margin of error not exceeding say from 10 to 15, the passage can be made with great safety and rapidity." It will, the Admiral goes on to say, be very necessary that every precaution shall be taken to ensure absolute accuracy in dropping the ball. If an error accidentally made it should be promptly acknowledged by hoisting the ball again and dropping it a little later. Admiral Ryder is in the concluding sentence of his letter, rather severe upon the Colony for its neglect of the interests of the shipping frequenting its waters. He winds up as follows:—"When lighthouses on 'Waglan' and the 'Gap' are lit, when a time ball is dropped daily in sight of the shipping in Victoria Harbour, when the rise and fall, set and rate of the tides and currents in the group and to the southward of it have been ascertained, and the knowledge made available to navigators—a threshold, and at present an apparently well-deserved, reproach will be removed from Hongkong." It will be matter for satisfaction to the Government and the residents to provide one at least of these requirements, and, the sooner it is done the better.

The proposed observatory would, the Surveyor-General says, "take over and continue automatically the work of the several Public Offices in the Colony at present engaged in meteorological observations, and the latter would be decidedly enhanced in value by the change in the automatic method of record and by their reduction to common averages for easy reference." The sites indicated by Mr. Price for the Observatory building is Mount Kowloon, while for the trial station he thinks the best site would be the southernmost point of the peninsula near the Tsui-ta-tsui Police Station, where a tall mast could be erected with electric mechanism for detaching the time ball, and the requisite apparatus for signalling approaching typhoons. The site for the time ball is about the best that could possibly be selected, it would be visible from all parts of the harbour, a desideratum not to be easily met with. Altogether the scheme is one that must recommend itself to all classes of the community, and we trust it will be successfully carried out.

The Ocean Steamship Company's steamer *Scator* has arrived in England.

The usual Literary Extracts in our fourth page have had to be omitted owing to the pressure of other matter.

The British steamer *State of Alabama*, bound for Hongkong, which left London on the 27th October, put back to Gravesend on the next day damaged by collision.

The Macao steamer *White Cloud* did not arrive here yesterday morning until quarter past one o'clock. She had 15,200 boxes of tea on board for the next mail.

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The Agents (Messrs. Battersea and Swindon) speak in lat. N. and long. 25.15 W., on behalf of the steamer *Orpheus* for this year, and the steamer *Orpheus* is now steaming built to replace the vessel of the same name lost off Galle.

The *Carl Ritter*, from Cardiff for Shanghai, was spoken in lat. N. and long. 25.15 W., on behalf of the steamer *Orpheus* for Hongkong, in late October, and the steamer *Orpheus* for September; and the *Albatross* for Hongkong, in lat. 41.13 W., on 21st August.

The Hongkong races are fixed for the last day in February and the 1st and 2nd of March. There are 25 items to be disposed of in the three days, all on the flat. In years gone by we had some steeplechases at this meeting, which seem to be entirely given up. Are there any more to be run? The Colony who could take the risk overstepped?

Yesterday morning a Chinese hawker of sweetmeats was on board the Canton river steamer *Kingsland* selling his wares. When the wind had just started the man made a rush to land upon the flat, but he accidentally fell into the sea. The swells were so high that he was unable to get ashore, and he was about to drown when a boat came to his rescue. He was rescued but had not P.C. Campbell, who happened to be on the wharf, get into a boat and pull him out.

The band of Her Majesty's 23rd Regiment will perform the following programme this evening:

Order— "La Chavela de Bronce" Andante Selection— "La Fillo del Regno" Minuetto. Va-vo— "Conquerors" Serenades. Arioso— "La Traviata" Verdi. Selection— "La Fronde" Art. Hurst. Gaidop— "Francesca" Faust. God save the Queen— E. P. Hurst, Conductor.

We (N. C. Daily News) hear it reported that Sir Brooke Jobson has been appointed Consul-General at Singapore. The creation of the new post would seem to imply the final fusion of the legal and consular functions has been definitely abandoned; and may possibly have the further advantage of facilitating a settlement of the Hongkong Blockade question, in which Lord Carnarvon and Sir Brooke took such divergent views.

Mr. O. B. Bradford, late an official in the State Councils General at Singapore, was the N. C. Daily News' chargé before the Hon. G. W. Wells, Consul-General, with embracement, extort, and malfeasance in office on the 12th inst. The indictment embraced twenty-five separate charges, and to all of these he pleaded "technically guilty, but innocent of any intent to commit a violation of law or infraction of the rules of the Government and asked for the mercy to be shown to him by the Home Government. The Consul-General took the plea as one of guilty, and consented to suspend judgment until the matter had been referred, in accordance with the prisoner's wish, to the Home Government, granting bail in the sum of \$10,000—the prisoner and two sureties each to qualify in that amount.

The *Friendly Chapel Society's Concert*, which was given last night at the Royal Albert Hall, was as far as the concert was concerned, an unqualified success, but there was not so good a house as might have been expected. The chair was occupied by Colonel Hall. The singing of the children reflects great credit upon Mr. Woodford for the manner in which he has trained them. The duos and chorus, "The Fisher Boy's Song," were rendered with great effect and was warmly received. Messrs. Woodford and St. George played a duet (violin and piano). "The Blue Bells of Scotland" with variations, and were encored. One of the best pieces in the first part was a trio and a chorus ("To all you ladies now on land"), which was originally received and encored. A duet from "Elisir d'Amore" by Mr. Woodford and his daughter sang well. The concert would not form a military excepting to those almost universal, and we may look forward with confidence to a reduction in the number of our habitual criminals by the institution of the separate system. How prisoners conducted on this plan, and how it would be conducted again to receive into the living graves (as one may almost call the solitary cells) as they have been too fortunate to come to some escape from them. When the reports of the commission and of the judge who tried the prisoners reached Lord Carnarvon, the Government of Singapore charged it to the Royal Albert Hall, and he refused to let him have it. It is no doubt whatever that the very fact which Lord Carnarvon refers, the outbreak in the Singapore Gaol, ought to be a warning to us. When the reports of the commission and of the judge who tried the prisoners reached Lord Carnarvon, the Government of Singapore charged it to the Royal Albert Hall, and he refused to let him have it. 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received by the Council and the public generally. I thank my judicial friends at the Council especially for what they have said. The criticism they have indulged in will be of advantage to us, and I can only say that as long as I have the honour to be the Governor of the Colony I will endeavour to do "what I have done" which is to consider the members of the Council before I act. I submit my statements in public to the Council, and after they are before the Council to afford every opportunity for discussion, and where the unofficial members of the Council especially should call attention to any particular item, to meet the views of my own friends. It is very gratifying to me to know now that no proposed changes in the constitution of the colony will be submitted to the Council without the assent of the officers of the law. I will be always ready to call your attention to a respectable balance and to a flourishing state of our finances.

His Excellency then addressed the Council since die.

SUPREME COURT.

November 19th.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE THE HON. HON. JUSTICE SIR JOHN SMALE.

The sessions were formally opened and adjourned until Friday.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION—BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

THE "HELICON" CASE.

The hearing of the argument on the writ of habeas corpus for Samuel Clark was continued, and the return of the writ for George Powell, and the six other men of the crew of the "Helicon" to the Admiralty Court for return to their vessel was also made.

Mr. Francis, instructed by Mr. Denys, appeared for the men; and the Attorney-General, instructed by the Crown Solicitor, appeared to support the decision of the magistrate.

On the papers being handed in, the Chief-Justice directed that the documents be referred to the legal adviser.

The Attorney-General said he never refused to give advice.

The Chief-Justice said it was not a question of refusal. Captain Duncal ought to have applied to the Colonial Secretary's Office and assistance would then have been assigned him.

The Attorney-General said there was always a right to apply to the legal adviser if a writ was required.

The Chief-Justice said "I dare say you are, but these proceedings may be questioned by me, and what I have seen of this matter makes me feel that whatever is done should be done rightly."

The papers having been put in order,

M. Francis moved that the men be discharged from the service on the grounds stated in his argument in this case.

The Chief-Justice said Mr. Russell's return was in court but had not been considered yet.

The Attorney-General proceeded with his argument, and submitted the most important question involved in the case was as to jurisdiction. He took no technical ground whatever.

This only ground he took was submitted on behalf of the legal adviser.

The Attorney-General said it was admitted that the magistrate had power to inflict a fine of £10, in addition to sending the man on board.

Mr. Hornsby asked whether the magistrate had power to inflict a fine of £10, in addition to sending the man on board.

Mr. Francis said that was the view of the magistrate, but he had not been charged together.

Mr. Francis said one of the complaints was that perusal was given to examine Carson had been refused, although he and another man had actually been charged at another time. The magistrate was at the moment hearing both cases together. They were conducted separately, and the magistrate had charge of each.

The Attorney-General said it was admitted that the man was tried together, and under those circumstances the question was whether Carson's evidence ought to be taken. The magistrate did offer to hear Twibell, who had been able to satisfy the Court that he ought to be discharged and had got his three months' pay, but he was not called. Mr. Carson was tried on the trial trip from Mr. Hornsby and the captain, Captain Burnham and Captain Peter.

Mr. Hornsby said he had no objection to the magistrate being justified in so doing.

As to the magistrate's opinion, he had nothing to do with it.

Mr. Hornsby said he believed that the magistrate might have believed, and that he had nothing to do with it.

Mr. Hornsby said he believed that the magistrate had given his permission to the captain to make his explanation, which the magistrate took right or wrong.

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